

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Sub 1. (Currently Amended) A connector for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular; the connector comprising a first portion on the first tubular and a second portion on the second tubular, wherein each tubular is provided with two axially extending unthreaded portions which are load-bearing and allow the transfer of loads between the tubulars, and in the assembled connector are mutually parallel, wherein the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular and wherein the first and second portions each have axially extending portions which in the assembled connector are mutually parallel have mutually engaging threads.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A connector as claimed in Claim 6 1 wherein the axially extending portions on each tubular are provided above and below the threaded portion.

8. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a spigot and a socket comprise the axially extending portions on each tubular.

9. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the spigot is provided between the tubular's threaded face and terminus.

10. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the spigot on the first tubular

engages the socket on the second tubular.

11. (Currently amended) A connector as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the spigot on the second tubular engages the socket on the ~~second~~ first tubular.

12. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the first tubular comprises a pin connector.

13. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the second tubular comprises a box connector.

14. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the socket of the first tubular and spigot on the second tubular are greater in length than the socket of the second tubular and spigot of the first tubular.

15. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the axially extending portions are parallel to the axis of the tubulars.

16. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the first and second tubulars have a tapered profile.

17. (Original) A connector as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the tapered portions of the first and second tubulars are the threaded portions of the first and second tubulars and have co-operating tapers to facilitate mating of the two portions.

18. (Currently amended) A method for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular, wherein each tubular is provided with two axially extending unthreaded portions in which the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular, the method comprising the steps of: ~~the method comprising the steps of~~

gripping a first tubular at a position spaced from its terminus;

inserting the axially extending unthreaded portions on each tubular into
corresponding recesses on the other tubular;

engaging the first and second tubulars;

gripping the second tubular; and

applying torque between the tubulars.

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